

Reported Tuberculosis Morbidity, January-June 1952

Provisional reports from the State health departments indicate there were approximately 56,000 cases of tuberculosis newly reported in the United States during the first 6 months of 1952. This is a slight decline from the numbers reported in the corresponding periods of 1950 and 1951. On the basis of these prelim-

inary data, it is estimated that some 6,000 fewer cases will be reported during the year 1952 than were reported in 1951.

A portion of the decline was due to the application of new case-reporting procedures in 1952. The new procedures limited the kinds of tuberculosis cases which should be reported,

New tuberculosis cases reported, United States and Territories, January-June, 1952

State or Territory	Total newly reported tuberculosis cases	Newly reported group A (active and probably active) tuberculosis cases		State or Territory	Total newly reported tuberculosis cases	Newly reported group A (active and probably active) tuberculosis cases	
		Number	Annual rate per 100,000 population ¹			Number	Annual rate per 100,000 population ¹
Alabama.....	1, 287	675	44. 4	New Mexico.....	570	328	93. 2
Arizona.....	1, 852	788	195. 8	New York.....	6, 162	5, 999	79. 8
Arkansas.....	884	795	83. 2	North Carolina.....	1, 106	875	42. 3
California.....	4, 423	4, 423	80. 2	North Dakota.....	92	86	28. 4
Colorado.....	622	242	35. 2	Ohio.....	3, 284	2, 452	60. 8
Connecticut.....	725	490	48. 1	Oklahoma.....	698	501	44. 2
Delaware.....	79	56	34. 0	Oregon.....	976	441	56. 6
District of Columbia.....	946	569	140. 3	Pennsylvania.....	2, 732	(2)	-----
Florida.....	1, 285	727	49. 1	Rhode Island.....	216	172	43. 4
Georgia.....	1, 024	819	47. 0	South Carolina.....	677	524	49. 3
Idaho.....	115	89	30. 2	South Dakota.....	87	52	16. 1
Illinois.....	2, 333	2, 333	52. 9	Tennessee.....	1, 867	918	55. 3
Indiana.....	823	727	36. 0	Texas.....	2, 258	(2)	-----
Iowa.....	348	173	13. 2	Utah.....	74	74	20. 9
Kansas.....	254	247	25. 3	Vermont.....	200	82	44. 0
Kentucky.....	1, 270	1, 134	77. 6	Virginia.....	2, 471	(2)	-----
Louisiana.....	1, 082	(2)	-----	Washington.....	(2)	(2)	-----
Maine.....	195	177	39. 7	West Virginia.....	541	510	51. 1
Maryland.....	1, 414	1, 243	101. 8	Wisconsin.....	714	665	38. 3
Massachusetts.....	1, 215	1, 121	47. 4	Wyoming.....	50	22	14. 9
Michigan.....	3, 075	2, 013	61. 5	State total ³	56, 341	43, 777	57. 1
Minnesota.....	1, 072	433	28. 9	Alaska.....	253	211	310. 3
Mississippi.....	599	537	49. 0	Hawaii.....	304	143	57. 5
Missouri.....	1, 098	1, 015	50. 2	Puerto Rico.....	3, 032	2, 668	240. 8
Montana.....	175	127	43. 1	United States and Territories ³	59, 930	46, 799	59. 9
Nebraska.....	135	129	19. 1				
Nevada.....	72	63	73. 7				
New Hampshire.....	116	96	36. 0				
New Jersey.....	2, 025	1, 285	51. 7				

¹ Annual rate, based on population as of July 1, 1951, for States; as of July 1, 1950, for Territories.

² Not reported.

³ Including estimates for States not reporting.

SOURCE: Semiannual tuberculosis morbidity reports (provisional).

and in addition, provided that active and probably active cases should be counted separately from all other cases of tuberculosis.

In accordance with the recommendations of the State directors of tuberculosis control (*Public Health Reports*, October 5, 1951, pp. 1291-1294), State health departments report their new cases in two categories: group A—active and probably active cases; and group B—other reportable cases. This recommended reporting procedure was designed to achieve comparability of data on newly reported cases from State to State and to measure the problem better by identifying presumably infectious cases of tuberculosis needing treatment.

Of the 56,000 new cases reported from January through June 1952, 44,000 were designated as active or probably active cases—an estimated annual reporting rate of 57 per 100,000 population for the continental United States.

The tuberculosis morbidity rate continues to be high in spite of the rapid decline in mortality. This fact lends considerable importance to the numbers of cases newly reported each

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year as an index of the tuberculosis problem in the United States.

Shown in the accompanying table are total cases and group A (active and probably active) cases reported by each State and Territory. An improvement in comparability of data from State to State by the separate reporting of active and probably active cases is readily apparent. Total cases reported by some States (the only figures available in previous years) include only active and probably active cases, whereas totals reported by other States and Territories include cases of more limited clinical significance. As reporting improves, the annual reporting rate of active and probably active tuberculosis cases will no doubt become one of our best measures of the true tuberculosis problem in the various States and Territories.

1950 Census of Mental Patients

According to preliminary information, the number of patients in State and county mental hospitals increased in 1950. At the end of that year, about 600,000 were under supervision in 201 State and 112 county mental hospitals. This compares with more than 580,000 in the previous year. The average rate of all first admissions was 97.3 per 100,000 estimated civilian population.

Based on data compiled from an annual census by the National Institute of Mental Health, Public Health Service, these figures are reported in "Patients in Public Hospitals for the Prolonged Care of the Mentally Ill, 1950."

The National Institute of Mental Health points out that the increase may involve such factors other than an increase in the incidence or prevalence of mental illness as these: growth of the general population, increase in facilities for mental patients, earlier admission of patients through improved diagnostic methods, and hospitalization of patients who were previously untreated.